

09/675,823
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Remarks

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22 and 26 are directed to allowable subject matter. Reconsideration of the above referenced application in view of the enclosed amendment and remarks is requested. The Abstract has been amended at the Examiner's request. Claims 8, 13, 18, and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 14, 16, 19, 21 and 25 have been amended. Specifically, allowable Claims 4, 11, 16 and 21 have been amended to put them into independent form so they are in condition for immediate allowance. Thus, the scope of Claims 4, 11, 16 and 21 has not been changed with this amendment. Existing Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 19-25 remain in the application.

ARGUMENT

Claim 3 is objected to based on the informality that it should be dependant on Claim 2 instead of Claims 1. Claim 3 is amended to be dependent on Claim 2, as requested by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is moot.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 12, 14, 17, 19 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,069,647 to Sullivan et al. (hereinafter "Sullivan et al."). This rejection is respectfully traversed and Claims 1, 7, 9, 12, 14, 17, 19 and 25 are believed allowable based on the following discussion. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 8. Claim 7 is dependent on Claim 1. Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 13. Claim 12 is dependent on Claim 9. Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 18. Claim 17 is dependent on Claim 14. Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable Claim 26. Claim 25 is dependent on Claim 19. Thus, Claims 1, 7, 9, 12, 14, 17, 19 and 25 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 2 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sullivan in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0115324 A1 by Blumenau et al. (hereinafter

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"Blumenau et al."). This rejection is respectfully traversed and Claims 2 and 20 are believed allowable based on the foregoing and following discussion.

Claims 2 and 20 are allowable as being dependent on Claims with allowable subject matter.

Claims 5, 6, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sullivan in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,710,815 to Ming et al. (hereinafter "Ming et al."). This rejection is respectfully traversed and Claims 5, 6, 23 and 24 are believed allowable based on the foregoing and following discussion.


Claims 5, 6, 23 and 24 are allowable as being dependent on Claims with allowable subject matter. All claims remaining in the application are now allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 19-25 are all in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 633-6845. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please charge any shortage of fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-0221 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joni D. Stutman-Horn
Patent Attorney
Intel Corporation
Registration No. 42,173
(703) 633-6845

c/o Intel Americas, Inc.
4030 Lafayette Center Drive
MS CY-LF3
Chantilly, VA 20151